

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of securing collateral for a loan when indicated by a loan status wherein the collateral comprises a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) installing a transmitter within the vehicle, the transmitter being capable of transmitting locational data regarding the vehicle;

(b) monitoring the loan status for a default condition;

10 (c) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the transmitter of the vehicle upon an occurrence of the default condition in the loan status;

15 (d) transmitting locational data from the transmitter of the vehicle to the base terminal via the data link;

(e) determining the location of the vehicle from the locational data transmitted to the base terminal; and

20 (f) confiscating the vehicle.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

25 (1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a transmit request signal; and

step (c) further comprises the steps of:

30 (1) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the base communication receiver upon an occurrence of the default condition in the loan status; and

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(2) receiving a transmit request signal from the base terminal with the base communication receiver via the data link.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein step (c) further comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the base communication receiver at predetermined intervals prior to any occurrence of a default condition; and

10 (2) transmitting locational data from the transmitter to the base terminal via the data link to verify the operation of the base communication receiver.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (c) further comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the transmitter at predetermined intervals prior to any occurrence of a default condition; and

20 (2) transmitting locational data from the transmitter to the base terminal via the data link to verify the operation of the transmitter.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein step (c) further comprising the step of:

25 (3) receiving the locational data at the base terminal and storing the locational data.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (b) further comprising the step of:

(1) monitoring the loan status for a delinquent condition; and

30 step (c) further comprising the step of:

(1) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the transmitter of the vehicle upon an

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occurrence of the delinquent condition in the loan status.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the transmitter is capable of sensing any physical tampering therewith and transmitting a tamper signal in response to any sensed tampering, step (c) further comprises the step of:

(1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the transmitter upon the sensing of any physical tampering with the transmitter.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprising the step of:

(1) powering the transmitter with a rechargeable battery.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the vehicle having an alarm, step (a) further comprises the step of:

(1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a vehicle alarm signal; and step (d) further comprises the step of:

(1) transmitting a vehicle alarm signal from the base terminal to the base communication receiver via the data link;

(2) receiving the vehicle alarm signal with the base communication receiver; and

(3) enabling the vehicle alarm.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

(1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a vehicle deactivation signal; and

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15. The method of Claim 1 wherein the installing of the transmitter is effectuated during the vehicle manufacturing process.